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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

COGSWELL BUILDING

STATE OF MONTANA

June 1, 1988

HELENA, MONTANA 59620

Re: Preliminary Environmental Review
Miller's Auto Body

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

Vernon Miller, 3157 Canyon Ferry Road, East Helena, 59635
William Summers, 3180 Canyon Ferry Road, East Helena
Steven Arlint, 3116 Canyon Ferry Road, East Helena
Danny Rushford, 3137 Canyon Ferry Road, East Helena
Joseph Visser, 3110 Canyon Ferry Road, East Helena
MT Operating Engineers & AGC Joint Apprentice Council, 3106 Canyon
Ferry Road, East Helena
Fuzz Corsner, Lewis & Clark County Junk Vehicle Program Director,
316 North Park Street, Helena, MT 59623
Robert Rasmussen, Director Lewis & Clark County Planning Department,
316 North Park Street, Helena, MT 59623
Lewis & Clark County Board of County Commissioners, 316 North Park,
Helena, MT 59623
Tom Ellerhoff, Environmental Sciences Division, DHES, Helena
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Complex, Helena
Documents Section, State Library, Capitol Complex, Helena

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HELENA, MONTANA 59620

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 16.2.604, the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning Vernon Miller/dba/Miller's Auto Body.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15) days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within the allotted time.

Sincerely,

John Geach
Solid and Hazardous Waste Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division
Telephone (406) 444-2821

Encls.

JG/ba

PLEASE RETURN



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
Cogswell Building, Helena, Montana 59601
(406) 444-2821

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences/Solid & Hazardous Waste Bureau

Project or Application Miller's Auto Body--Motor vehicle wrecking facility

Description of Project Vernon Miller, owner of Miller's Auto Body, has submitted a license application for a motor vehicle wrecking facility to be established at 3157 Canyon Ferry Road, East Helena. This proposed facility would be one acre in size and would be located behind his present auto body shop. This PER is being prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts which may result from the development of this facility.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats				X		
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution			X			X
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture			X			X
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality				X		
5. Aesthetics			X			X
6. Air quality				X		
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
9. Historical and archaeological sites				X		X

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue			X			X
4. Agricultural or industrial production				X		
5. Human health			X			X
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income				X		
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity and distribution of employment			X			X
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services			X			X
11. Industrial & commercial activity				X		
12. Demands for energy				X		
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals				X		X
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows			X			X

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction Lewis & Clark County Planning Board

Individuals or groups contributing to this PER. Vern Miller, Lewis & Clark County

Health Department

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS not necessary

PER Prepared by: John C. Geach

Date: June 1, 1988

Miller's Auto Body - Preliminary Environmental Review

General Comments

The State Department of Health licenses and regulates motor vehicle wrecking facilities under authority of the Montana Motor Vehicle Recycling and Disposal Act (75-10-501 MCA) and Administrative Rules (16.14.201 ARM).

To be eligible for licensing a proposed wrecking facility must:

- 1) Be in compliance with all existing zoning ordinances on the date the license application is submitted to the department.
- 2) Be capable of being shielded from view of any existing public road. If the license application is approved, the applicant must construct all necessary shielding prior to licensure.
- 3) Not create any significant adverse environmental impacts.

The department has made the preliminary determination the applicant is in compliance with existing zoning ordinances and can effectively shield the proposed facility from all public roads in the area. The purpose of this PER is to determine if this proposed motor vehicle wrecking facility can be established without posing significant adverse environmental impacts.

Mr. Miller wishes to license a one acre storage yard he has behind his auto repair shop. This yard has been in existence for several years and has been used primarily to store customer vehicles prior to repair. Obtaining a motor vehicle wrecking facility license would allow Mr. Miller to (1) sell used parts (2) store motor vehicles for replacement parts to be used in his auto repair business and (3) to buy wrecked vehicles directly from insurance companies. State law prohibits an insurance company from selling vehicles to an unlicensed individual or wrecking facility.

Potential Impact on Physical Environment

2. Water quality, quantity and distribution
3. Soil quality, stability and moisture

A number of domestic water wells exist in the immediate vicinity of this proposed wrecking facility. The majority of these wells are approximately 80 feet in depth.

The soils found in this area are generally classified as a silty-gravelly loam with a slow to moderate permeability.

The topography of the vehicle storage yard is flat with no apparent surface water drainage courses.



Waste antifreeze, gasoline and lubricating oils contain petroleum distillates, heavy metals of toxic compounds which if improperly disposed of can cause surface and groundwater degradation. The applicant proposes to recycle the small quantities of antifreeze which will be generated by this facility. Antifreeze which can not be recycled will be disposed of as solid waste at a licensed sanitary landfill.

The applicant anticipates approximately 15 gallons a month of waste motor oil will be generated from this facility. He proposes to use this oil sparingly as a dust suppressant in the parking area in front of his business. Oil which can not be used in this manner will be stored and disposed of through a commercial oil recycler.

Some lubricating oils and antifreeze may drip from vehicles stored at the facility. This residual drippage is not expected to result in heavy accumulations. The applicant does not propose to crush vehicles at this location. Once all useable parts have been removed from a vehicle it will be removed to one of the larger area motor vehicle wrecking facilities for eventual crushing and recycling.

Due to the size of the vehicle storage area, proposed method of operation, site hydrogeology and topography, the potential of ground or surface water degradation from this proposed facility is considered very low.

5. Aesthetics

The vehicle storage area the applicant proposes to license has been in existence for several years. This area is screened from the Canyon Ferry Road by a six foot cedar fence on the north and west. A six foot wooden pine fence on the east provides shielding and separation from the adjacent residential property. An earthen irrigation ditch along the southern edge of the storage yard provides shielding from the public and private roads to the south.

The existing cedar fence is constructed out of 1x6 boards with approximately 1 inch spacing between boards. This construction does not meet the minimal fencing density requirement for motor vehicle wrecking facilities. The applicant proposes to install additional boards between the existing spaces to increase the shielding density. These additional boards will be installed on the fence stringers on the back of the fence. This construction method will meet the minimum fencing density requirements and allow for sufficient air flow to reduce wind load.

The existing and proposed fencing at this facility will meet the minimum density requirements and should provide effective shielding from the view of all public roads. The fencing chosen by the applicant should be aesthetically acceptable and is not expected to adversely impact the adjacent properties.

9. Historical and archaeological sites

A cultural resource file search by the State Historic Preservation Office indicated no known historic or archaeological sites are located in the vicinity of this proposed wrecking facility.



Potential Impact of Human Environment

3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income
8. Quantity and distribution of employment

The development of this facility will assist in the business growth of Miller's Auto Body Shop. The operation of this vehicle wrecking facility may not require any additional employees. However, the establishment of this facility may increase the business capabilities of the body shop which may in turn require additional employees. This employment and the employment requirements for the support services this business will utilize, will provide a positive employment impact for the community.

The establishment of this facility and its economic spinoff on the existing body shop may increase the overall payroll of the community and provide increased local and state tax bases.

10. Demands for governmental services

The issuance of a motor vehicle wrecking facility license will require administrative and inspection services of the County and State Health Departments.

11. Industrial and commercial activity

The establishment of the motor vehicle recycling and wrecking facility will provide a commercial source of used automotive parts. The reconditioning and reuse of parts provides a cost savings to the consumer and conserves energy and natural resources. Parts which can not be reconditioned or reused will be crushed and shipped to a secondary metals market for recycling.

13. Locally adopted environmental plans and goals

The location of this proposed wrecking facility is not currently zoned as certified by the Lewis and Clark County Planning Department.

14. Transportation networks and traffic flows

The establishment of this business will increase the traffic flow patterns on the roads leading to the facility. These increased traffic flows are not anticipated to significantly impact the traffic handling or load capabilities of these roads.

